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A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, August 19 1708.

WHAT a wild Fellow was this *Review*, said the People a while ago, when he was urging the Advantages which might be obtain'd over the *French*, by falling in upon the *Spanish* Galleons in the *West* —— A Paper full of Chimera's said another, a Thing remote said another— And yet you find, Gentlemen, that this remote Thing is come to pass, this mighty Wonder that few troubled their Heads with; and here are actually three of the Galleons destroy'd, and as they tell us, 2 Millions in *Specie* taken from the Enemy.

The Body in Iarge, the Attempt very happy, but the Disappointment to the Enemy exceeds it all. What a Support to their Affairs both in *Spain* and in *France*, what Encouragement to their drooping Affairs, what a Supply to their Armies and Magazines in *Catalonia*, what Assistance to them in every Part this would have been, any Body may judge, that knows what their Affairs have really suffer'd for Want of Money, for Want of timely Supplies.

It is to be noted also, that the Loss here falls especially upon the King of *Spain*'s Share in the Galleons, the Admiral and Vice-Admiral being destroy'd and taken, in which the King's particular Part of the Wealth lay; and really could the Losses of War only have fallen upon the Publick on either side, on the publick Part of Affairs. Could that Money, or those Ships, or Men be seiz'd and made Prize of, which are design'd to annoy one another, the War would

would go on, and we ſhould have no Concern upon us for our Enemies Loſſes.

But when we conſider even in this Diſaſter of our Enemies the Loſſes of the innocent Merchant, the Numbers of rich flouriſhing Families, who having been gathering Wealth in the *Indies* many Years, were now ſinging *Requiems* to themſelves, and going Home to enjoy it, and in a Moment 800 People, and all the Wealth with them blown the firſt into Eternity, and the other to the Bottom of the Sea——— When we ſee the other reduced from wealthy Circumſtances and great Fortunes, to Captivity in the Hands of their Enemies, and the *Engliſh* Seamen revelling in their Treaſure; I ſay, could we abſtract theſe Things from the Affair of the War, we could not but ſhed a Tear for the Miſeries and Diſaſters of the honeſt Merchant, the innocent Produce of whoſe Labour and Travail is thus ſwallow'd up at once in the common Diſaſters.

O the miſerable State of Mankind, who on ſo many Occaſions becomes a Prey, and is expos'd to the Rapine and voracious Temper of his own Kind— What do Nations and People ſuffer for the Luſt, and to gratifie the inſatiable Ambition of you, *O Tyrants*, You the Deſtroyers of the World, the Firebrands of Nations, the Plague of your Fellow-Creatures? What has *France* and *Spain* to lay to the Charge of the Ambition and unbounded Pride of uſurping Monarchs? What Blood, what Deſtruction, what Ruin does poor *Spain* feel to determine that mighty Inſignificance, which of two Boys ſhould govern them? Well might the King of *France* ſay at the News of the Battle of *Audenard*, *O Spain, what Blood you coſt!* He ſhould rather have ſaid, O Tyrant, O Invader, what Blood you ſpill! What Seas of Blood do you ſacrifize to the Glory of the Houſe of *Bourbon*?—Mighty Sham! The Glory of Ambition, the Glory of mighty Robbery and Rapine, the Glory of unſatisfy'd Avarice, and Luſt of Rule— Is this the Glory of Man to ruin and deſtroy his Fellow-Creatures, and lay waſte the Creation? Such Glory will end in Deſtruction; and tho' GOD in his Infinite Wiſdom may permit ſuch Monſters as theſe to ravage his own Glorious Works, and in Judgment let them looſe like wild Beaſts upon the Earth, yet he always brings them down at laſt, and they end in Stench and Abhorrence——— Nor can it indeed be otherwiſe, the very Nature and Being of GOD, who is Infinitely Good, is directly contrary to the wicked and ambitious Projects of an exalted Tyrant, an excellent and uſeful Reflection for thoſe who ſanctify all the villainous Excurſions of ſuch Beaſts of Prey, purely upon the Article of their wearing a Crown, as if ſuch Monſters as theſe were Sacred by Office, and Fiends incarnate grew Saints by the Sanction of a Scepter. Hear the Cenſure of a true Satyr on that Subject.

To ſay ſuch Kings, Lord, rule by thee,
Is moſt prodigious Blaſphemy;
If ſuch Kings are by GOD appointed,
The DEVIL may be the Lord's anointed.

And. Marvel.

Well, tho' I muſt acknowledge, I pity the poor Merchants who are ruin'd by theſe Loſſes, and by which the general Induſtry of Mankind receives a Shock; yet I cannot but rejoyce at the Diſcomfiture and Diſappointment of our Enemies: And I am perſwaded, if this Blow can be follow'd with but this wiſh'd-for Succeſs of keeping the Galleons in *America* another Year, and ſending Monſieur *De Caſſe* Home without them, it may be a greater Blow to the *French* Affairs, than the Battle of *Audenard*, *if there had been ſuch a Thing* could be, or a Victory at *Audenard*, if that had been either—— But we muſt not call it a Victory, it ſeems.

Mad Man. I thought you would have a Fling at your mad Man, I know you are bantering me now, you little thought I was ſo near you——I am in the right of it ſtill.

Rev. O, are you there? Yes, yes, mad Men are always in the right.

M. I challenge you all to diſprove it.

Rev. What, have you Impudence enough ſtill to ſay there was no Battle at *Audenard*?

M. Look

M. Look you, let us have no more Debate about it, I told you plainly enough the Case; it is necessary *to my Employers*, that the Noise of a Victory, which at present is unseasonable to their Affairs, should be sunk and run down a little, and this I find *the shortest way* to bring it about; *for I tell you*, if the Battle be but believ'd, *Old Harry* cannot beat the Victory out of Peoples Heads; but bring them once to agree, there was no Battle, and I won't give a Farthing for the Fable of a Victory; but you need not be so much upon your Triumphs neither New nor Old, it's the same Case in *America*. I'll prove in my next, you have taken none of the Galleons neither, nor blown up any, or run a-shoar any, and how foolishly you will look with all your mighty Joy, when the Truth of that Story appears.

Rev. You will be a terrible Fellow if you can do this.

M. I warrant you, take my Word for it.

Rev. Indeed we shall look foolishly if that were so—— But I fear you not, nor all your Malecontent Tribe of *Bedlam*, do your worst.

MISCELLANEA.

THE Gentlemen that cannot bear this Story of the Episcopal Clergy in *Scotland*, and begin to grow out of Temper at it already, show very little Judgment and less Manners in their Haste— Could they have but Patience to hear it out, they shall have full Answers to all their Objections, if Reason and Matter of Fact will answer them; as for those that are not desirous of Reasoning and Matters of Fact, and whose Conduct has been so violent this way, that Reason and Matters of Fact are not the safest Things for them, I can only say, all their Clamour will have no Effect here, the Story must go on——And I believe they would do their Party and their Friends in *Scotland* less Injury to be quiet, and let the Story be told fairly; in which I will endeavour to do even the *Jacobites* themselves no Injury, but singly relate Matter of Fact first; and if I find Occasion for Reflections, they shall be such, as I shall venture to say, shall stand the Test both for Truth and good Manners.

"To the Right Honourable the Lord, Provost
" and Bailies of the good Town of *Edin-*
" *burgh*. The Representation of the Epis-
" copal Ministers and Preachers in Meet-
" ing-Houses, by Way of Answer to the
" Libel raised against them, at the Instance
" of *Samuel Grey*, Pror. Fiscal to the good
" Town,

Humbly Sheweth,

" THAT where we are indicted as
" Criminals before your Honours,
" accused as Persons manifestly disaffected
" to her Majesty's Government, and guilty
" of the Breaches of Acts of Parliament,
" particularly of the 16*th* Act of the Con-
" vention of Estates, *Anno* 1689, Requiring
" all Ministers publickly to pray for the
" King and Queen then reigning, And of the
" 6*th* Act of the Parliament holden in 1693,
" requiring all Preachers and Ministers of
" the Gospel to take the Oath of Allegi-
" ance, and to subscribe the same with the
" Assurance in the Terms, and under the
" Certifications mention'd in the said Acts.
" And further it is libell'd against us, that
" we out of a factious Principle against her
" Majesty's Government, and the Peace
" and Security of the Kingdom are regard-
" less and negligent in Observance of pub-
" lick Fasts and Thanksgivings. Which
" Accusations being (as the Libel alledgeth)
" notorious, and proving themselves,
" therefore it's concluded, that we having
" incurr'd the Pains of Law, ought to be
" decerned to desist from preaching or
" keeping Meeting-Houses within the
" Bounds of the good Town, and to find
" Caution for that Effect, or otherwise be
" imprison'd, until due Obedience be given.

" For